



Sunday, January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Epiphany



Pastor Erik Allen

“The Magi’s Checklist”



2201 E. 106th Street, Carmel IN 46032 ☎ kogcarmel.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Partita on How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

Jan Bender

Gathering Song

O Come All Ye Faithful with
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Call to Worship

P: How good it is to sing praises to our God!

C: **God heals the brokenhearted and binds up all our wounds.**

P: God the Creator of the Universe counts the stars and calls each of them by name.

C: **Great is our God—whose power is beyond measure and whose wisdom is deeper than we can fathom.**

P: So come—lift up your voices in thanksgiving to God.

C: **Let us offer our worship to the One who alone is worthy of praise!**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

Joy Has Dawned

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Lesson Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message Pastor Erik

Sermon "The Magi's Checklist" Pastor Erik

Hymn What Child is This? ELW 296

The Nicene Creed

C: **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son
He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We
believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

please be seated

The Offering

Anthem

“Follow That Star”

Pamela Stewardt & Brad Nix

Offertory Prayer

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Prayers of the Church *(the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.)*

Members: Judy, Marion, Kelly, Jeff, Lee, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Faizah, Darin, Tom, Chris, Chuck, Sylvia, Bill, Ken, Dana,
Marie, Mary, Carol, Susan, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. **Amen!**

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Distribution

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Benediction

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Song

Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy

Sending

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

"Noel"

Louis-Claude Daquin

Announcements

Silverbox Deliveries

Our next rotation is just around the corner. You should have already received a Flocknote with a signup link for packing and delivering on Friday, January 16 and Saturday, the 17. If you didn't get it, please contact me (leslie.french@kogcarmel.org) and we'll make sure you are getting your notes. If you are unable to help pack or deliver, we are doing a food drive for peanut butter (45 jars), spaghetti sauce (50 jars) and cereal (60 boxes). Aldi often times has good prices, but we don't want to wipe out their entire inventory (so shop early and often :) Milk is also needed. See Hans Loyda with questions.

Euchre Night

It is time for some more fun and fellowship at Euchre Night hosted by the Fraziers.

Where: KOG Fellowship Hall

When: Saturday night January 24 at 7:00 PM

What to bring:

1. A snack to share
2. Your non-alcoholic drink
3. Feel free to bring your friends and neighbors
4. Beginners welcome

Swag Help

If you are able to help Tim take the swag down, please see him after church.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Members

Kelly Baugh

Lee Bucher

Marion Loyda

Jeff Minich

Judy Naaman

Vickie Samspon

Marj Schott

Family & Friends

Tom Anderson, Bob Bohn, Marcia Duhm,

Mary Hall, Carol Happ, Susan Haywood,

Brenda Ingle, Ken North, Billy Ross, Chuck

Sousa, Darin & Faizah, Chris, Wendy, Sylvia

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: God Manifested in the Infancy of Jesus

During the season of Epiphany, the church rejoices that the light of Christ has dawned for all people. This light does more than illuminate; it reveals who Christ is and what kind of king He is. The infant Jesus is not only Savior, but ruler in mercy and righteousness. As these reflections unfold, we see that Christ's light draws in the nations and brings healing to the world. Epiphany teaches us to see more clearly—to recognize Christ at work beyond familiar boundaries and to trust that his reign is both gentle and strong. May this light deepen our faith and shape our lives in grateful devotion.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 96 Proclaim to the Nations

Psalm 96 calls all creation to praise its Creator. Worship is not confined to one people or place, but resounds throughout the world God has made. This psalm sets the tone for Epiphany, declaring that the good news of God's reign is meant for the nations. In Christ, this call is fulfilled. The child revealed to the Magi is Lord of all, and even creation itself testifies to His glory. To praise God is both privilege and gift, for we praise the One who created and redeemed us. The Gospel frees us to join this song with joy and confidence. *Lord, grant us delight in praising you through the Gospel. Amen.*

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1–12 They Have Come to Worship

The Magi journey from afar, guided by a promise they do not fully understand. Their arrival reveals that God's salvation is not limited by ethnicity, geography, or tradition. Epiphany celebrates this widening of mercy. Herod, however, responds with fear and self-protection, revealing how power resists worship. The Magi, in contrast, kneel in humility and offer gifts. Their example calls us to examine our own hearts. Do we seek Christ for what we can gain, or do we come to worship? True worship flows from the heart, and brings joy in God's grace. *O Lord, keep our hearts focused on you alone. Amen.*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60:1–6 The Light of Christ Shines

Isaiah proclaims a radiant vision: light breaking into deep darkness. God's glory shines upon a weary people, calling them to rise and live. This same light guides the Magi and draws them toward Christ. The Gospel continues to shine on us, awakening faith and calling us out of death into life. This light does not belong to us, but we are invited to live within it, reflecting Christ's mercy and hope. Even when shadows remain, the light of Christ is not overcome. *Lord, keep us always in your light and truth. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:1–7 Christ Is the Light

The servant of the Lord is named and called before birth, set apart to bring light to the nations. Christians recognize this servant as Jesus Christ, whose mission reaches far beyond Israel alone. Jesus is light not only for the world, but for each believer personally. He sustains faith when it grows weary and calls us forward when the path seems unclear. Guided by his light, we walk in trust rather than fear, confident that God's purposes are unfolding even when hidden from view. *Guide us by your light, O Lord. Amen.*

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13–17 The Revealing of Jesus

At the baptism of Jesus, heaven is opened and God's voice declares Jesus as the beloved Son. The Spirit descends, revealing the triune God at work for our salvation. Though Jesus has no need of repentance, He enters the waters in solidarity with sinners. In doing so, He sanctifies baptism itself. Through Christ, we too are claimed as beloved children, wrapped in grace we do not earn. God's pleasure rests on us, not because of our worthiness, but because we are united with Christ. *We thank you, O God, for clothing us in Christ's righteousness. Amen.*

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:23–31 God of All People

Paul declares that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory, yet all are justified by grace through faith. This is the heart of the Gospel. God shows no partiality, for salvation rests entirely on Christ's faithfulness. Jew and Gentile alike are gathered into one people, not by ancestry or achievement, but by God's mercy. This good news humbles us and frees us, for our standing with God does not depend on our success, but on Christ alone. Our faith receives what grace gives—God's love forever! *We praise you for your saving grace, O Lord. Amen.*

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 72 The Light Is Our King

Psalm 72 offers a vision of righteous kingship fulfilled in Christ. This king rules not through oppression, but through justice, mercy, and compassion for the poor and vulnerable. In a world shaped by imperfect leaders and flawed leadership, Christ stands apart. He is a king worth trusting, one who defends the needy and brings peace without end. To live under His reign is freedom, not fear. By faith, we are gathered into this kingdom of light and life. *We thank you for bringing us under your gracious reign, O Christ. Amen.*

HAPPY New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face
shine upon you, And be gracious to you...

